



Sermon on the Mount  
*Treasure in Heaven*

## Treasure in Heaven

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Jesus continues within His Sermon upon the Mount.

✝ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

(Jesus said to Treasure our Treasures as in Spiritual in Greek.)

Matthew 6:19-21 RSV

English does fairly well here but it is wordy & not quite as direct as comparing to the original Greek. The Greek simply records Christ's Words as "Treasure" which means to cherish, respect, and love our "Treasures" (2344 our collected or amassed valuables) and then to literally deposit them in Heaven. Meaning you are correct if you suspect that Jesus is not speaking of worldly wealth at all. Our Lord is referencing what is near & dear to each of us being what we do in fact treasure the most. Jesus reminds that wealth and health are fleeting and it is only what we do for GOD- for His sake, as in what we do for Him that has any permanent lasting value. Not just to the enriching of our character here and now, but forever we are rewarded in our Heavenly account in the Kingdom of GOD. Yes, tis true we are Biblically directed to work in this world for our daily needs because Scripture states if one does not work then they should not eat.

✝ that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:10b KJV

However Jesus is saying that it is also a Sin when our total focus is upon the gaining of more wealth and possessions. The Bible says we are not to build a personal kingdom dedicated only unto ourselves. Meaning it is certainly ok to work and have nice things just as long as those temporary things are not our sole or Soul Purpose in this life. That honor belongs only to Jesus our living Christ.

This be a Sin when all that we strive for is getting ever more.

✝ Woe to those who attach house to house and join field to field,  
Until there is no more room, And you alone are a landowner in the midst of  
the land!

Isaiah 5:8 NASB

Jesus explains it is foolish to seek physical wealth without securing eternal Spiritual health!

✝ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' (notice this man had no intention or even a thought of being generous nor charitable.) <sup>18</sup> "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." <sup>20</sup> "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' <sup>21</sup> "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:16-21 NIV

✝ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

Mark 8:36 NIV

Christ's next words are quoting and echoing Proverbs 20:27 which speaks of our inner desires conscience and motivations particularly in this instance about our reasons for working.

Jesus Continues:

✝ The eye is the lamp of the body; so if your eye is clear [spiritually perceptive], your whole body will be full of light [benefiting from God's precepts]. <sup>23</sup> But if your eye is bad [spiritually blind], your whole body will be full of darkness [devoid of God's precepts]. So if the [very] light inside you [your inner self, your heart, your conscience] is darkness, how great *and* terrible is that darkness!

Matthew 6:22-23 AMP

In Jesus Time a common Jewish Proverb was "having a good eye" this meant one was generous while the opposite "having a bad eye" meant one was stingy. So Christ our Lord was using a common metaphor of His day to convey a proper attitude in regards to accumulating things and wealth.

It is true if we are stingy and greedy we will never have enough to truly be happy.

The choice is ours; we can work for more than just the mundane requirements of this life most of which are worldly profane as in being ill reverently common or we can learn more as we earn more.

Of course Jesus is now speaking about our motivations as we work to provide for our needs each for ourselves and our loved ones.

As in what moves & shakes us actually shapes us this being our personal reasons for our toil & efforts.

Are all of our exertions simply to gain with just the thought of bettering ourselves or do we selflessly untiringly lovingly work in GOD'S image to help in the supporting of others. Either family or by charity.

Additionally what Christ our Lord is saying;

That our chosen tasks and chores are not just to help us & others physically, but also Spiritually.

As in while we work we are also to strive at improving ourselves on the inside as well.

That we are to better ourselves Biblically & morally in order help those around us in the Lord.

Our work is certainly not just intended for the meeting of our physical needs comforts & pleasures.

We are to work just as hard for our eternal reward, not our Salvation- this is guaranteed by Christ, but our Heavenly reward is earned & in store for those whom labor for the Lord.

Our reward is earned in this life by what we do for Christ.

As we ever struggle to attain this Heavenly reward Jesus states that it is our Heavenly Father who records and stores what it is that He Treasures the most this being our Spiritual growth.

Jesus Continues

✝ No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24 RSV

Mammon is an ancient Jewish term for wealth & things what we today call "Materialism."

We can not truly love and be devoted to Jesus when all that we seek is more of what this life affords.

Think of the religious elite of Jesus's Time the Pharisee's, of how they had corrupted their Faith for power and gain. Tis the very same no matter the place the face nor the name.

✝ Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:2 NKJV

To live in worldliness mammon/materialism means we are not living in or for GOD'S Righteousness.

When someone is seeking gain simply for gains sake, while having one eye wearily, reluctantly, or even self consciously obligated upon GOD, this only means the Lord already see's them as a fraud.

Because when a person finds their conscience conflicted this is already an admission of error.

This is what Jesus means when He says someone of Faith- when totally committed as in solely/Souly exclusively into materialism, that GOD'S Word indeed curbs their perceived enthusiasm of greed.

Jesus says such a person actually begins to resent GOD, and His Loving good for us requirements.

We are to live for Christ gaining and sharing Knowledge of Him while providing physically, Spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally for each ourselves and for our loved ones without greed actually being self deceivingly disguised as an excuse of need.

We are to do our very best with proper Heavenly motivations while helping others as we can.

Meaning this exemplifies living our lives as a GODLY example.

We are to live our lives for more than common bodily needs, selfish vanities or wanting desires.

✝ Brothers and sisters, together follow my example and observe those who live by the pattern we gave you. <sup>18</sup> For there are many, of whom I have often told you, and now tell you even with tears, who live as enemies of the cross of Christ [rejecting and opposing His way of salvation], <sup>19</sup> whose fate is destruction, whose god is their belly [their worldly appetite, their sensuality, their vanity], and whose glory is in their shame—who focus their mind on earthly and temporal things. <sup>20</sup> But [we are different, because] our citizenship is in heaven. And from there we eagerly await [the coming of] the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Philippians 3:17-20 AMP

Just one final thought: As for attaining a prize that takes all of your efforts and time.

If your not sure of a particular pursuit, as in if you are debating that something benefiting you now that will make you proud- Question, will this diminish your standing or character in Christ?

In other words if you achieve this prize now, will the pride inside you acquire today be turned into shame when in Heaven your true motivations before GOD are explained?

If yes buyer beware. You should abstain or at least temporarily refrain until a more opportune time. If no then proceed cautiously as your life and other full responsibilities can afford in and for the Lord.